AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

1. Please replace paragraph [029] of the specification with the following amended version:

[029] As illustrated in Figure 3, a trace 370 is formed from a transmission line ~~322~~ 320 to a nearby ~~line or signal trace~~ contact 321 that is not affected by longer stubs. In one embodiment, the trace 370 may connect to another signal such as a ground plane and the like. This is more clearly illustrated in Figure 4, which is an expanded view of a particular portion 350 of Figure 3. The process for plating the high speed transmission lines 320 and ~~324~~ 322 begins by forming a trace to a nearby conductive path or signal. In this example, the transmission line 320 is connected with the contact 321 using a trace 370 and the transmission line 322 connects with a contact 323 using a trace 372, as shown in Figure 3. As illustrated and described in Figure 2, the particular ~~pads~~ contacts 323 and 321 may be connected to a plating bar using another trace.

2. Please replace paragraph [030] of the specification with the following amended version:

[030] In this example, the trace 370A of trace 370 is formed from the transmission line 320 to a via 376 either on a top layer of the PCB or on an internal layer of the PCB. The trace ~~377~~ 370B connects to the trace 370A through the via 376 and the trace ~~377~~ 370B connects to the contact 321. In a similar fashion, the trace 372A of trace 372 is formed from the transmission line 322 to a via 374 either on a top layer of the PCB or on an internal layer of the PCB. The trace 372B connects to the trace 372A through the via 374 and the trace 372B connects to the contact 323. For this example, the traces illustrated in Figure 2 are not shown for clarity although they are present in order to plate all conductive paths of the PCB as previously described. Using the traces 372 and 370, the high speed transmission lines are plated during the plating process.

3. Please replace paragraph [031] of the specification with the following amended version:

[031] After the plating process has been completed and the transmission lines are plated, a drilling process creates small holes 356 and 358 in the ~~thin~~ traces 370A and 372A respectively to disconnect the traces 370 and 372, respectively, from the high speed transmission lines. After the drilling process is completed, short stubs 352 and 354 remain, but these short stubs do not adversely affect the integrity of the high-speed traces to which they are attached. By controlling the drilling process, the length of the short stubs 352 and 354 can be negligible.